I have heard so many reasons why this bill should be passed but they all seem to come back to the same thing - herd immunity. Therefore, my testimony will be focused around this theory.

Herd immunity is merely a concept that has not been demonstrated in either animal or human populations through vaccination. Instead, the theory was coined in 1933 by A. W. Hedrich, after he had studied the epidemiology of measles in the USA between 1900-1931. His study published in the May 1933 American Journal of Epidemiology concluded that when **68%** of children younger than 15 yrs old had become immune to measles **via natural infection**, measles epidemics ceased. There are NO proven scientific studies that prove that herd immunity through vaccination is possible, much less likely. Although there are some hints in the literature that it might be true, **there is no proof.**

Legislators are assuming that they will accomplish this goal by mandates, but this is far from correct. Since vaccines are ineffective due to their failure rate, that is why the percentage has risen from 68% to now nearly 99%. Herd immunity will not even be possible unless you impose strict mandates on adults as well. Even if you were to impose strict mandates on all children and adults, herd immunity still would not be achieved due to vaccine failure and secondary vaccine failure. Remember, when the measles vaccine was introduced in 1963, officials were confident that they could eradicate the disease by 1967 as you can see here in this study, and that certainly didn't happen. Instead, boosters were recommended. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8174658

In 1990, after examining 320 scientific works from around the world, 180 European medical doctors concluded that 'the eradication of measles...would today appear to be an unrealistic goal.'" And in 1984, Professor D. Levy of Johns Hopkins University had already "concluded that if current practices [of suppressing natural immunity] continue, by the year 2050 a large part of the population will be at risk and 'there could in theory be over 25,000 fatal cases of measles in the U.S.A."

In brief, in the absence of any serious data, legislators are proposing doing an experiment to see if herd immunity can be achieved. If so, then the experiment can only be done by (a) competent researchers and (b) with clear informed consent, the last essential due to Nuremberg, Helsinki, and numerous other ethical guidelines. A mandate by its nature does not allow for informed consent. You have thousands of people telling you that they do **not** consent, the legislators are not researchers, and public and non-public schools are not research laboratories. This cannot ethically be done.

So I ask you this - what information are you relying on to demonstrate that mandatory vaccination for school children will provide herd immunity? Since there is no scientific literature available to prove that herd immunity conferred by vaccination exists, how are you planning to achieve such a thing? In addition, the models of herd immunity (via vaccination) shows that with

secondary vaccine failure being an issue, herd immunity cannot be achieved unless all adults are vaccinated and then revaccinated via boosters. Are we now going to impose adult mandates?

If you can't show that herd immunity exists and occurs, then the question is this: If you can't demonstrate that your mandates will work, then you are conducting an experiment. If you are doing an experiment, then you need informed consent according to documents that the US is party to, e.g. Nuremberg, Helsinki and many more. How can children possibly consent to this? And now you are trying to take away the right for their parents to say no?

Given this, do you think it legal to impose mandates that might well be considered experiments? Simply, it is not.

Sources cited:

- "Monthly estimates of the child population 'susceptible' to measles, 1900-1931,
 Baltimore, Maryland"; A W Hedrich; American Journal of Epidemiology; May 1933 –
 Oxford University Press.
- Vaccine Safety Manual' by Neil Z Miller; New Atlantean Press; 2008, 2009; pg 152.
- THE NUREMBERG CODE
- World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki
- Herd Immunity Myth or Reality?
- Herd Immunity: Fact or Fiction? | Article
- What Is The Herd Immunity Theory?
- Conversation with Dr. Chris Shaw, Neuroscientist 2/16/2020

I strongly oppose H.B. 5044. Please vote no on this bill.

Dawn Jolly Ridgefield, CT Mother, military veteran, former Pfizer Global vaccines